ABSTRACT

A system includes multiple server modules forming a server farm. Each server module includes one or more application caches which store availability information that indicates whether a corresponding application is available or unavailable. When a user makes a request for an application, the appropriate server module accesses its application cache to determine whether the application is available; if not, the server farm quickly notifies the user of the unavailability of the application. Further, synchronization strategies are described for distributing availability information among the server modules in the system, and for updating a server module that has recently become active with current availability information stored by other reference server modules.